

Home Club Is Trying Co-operative Buying to Cut High Cost of Living

Spirit of Movement, Spreading Among Clerks of Departments, Likely to Lead to Vast Enterprise Embracing All Civil Service Employees Here.

By RALPH W. BENTON.

Cutting down the high cost of living through co-operation is the simple but effective program that rapidly is being adopted by the thousands of government employees in Washington.

The Interior Department, through the instrumentality of the Home Club, an organization composed of employees of the department, is taking the lead in maintaining its leadership, thinking for the co-operative movement. But the spirit has invaded other departments, too, and bids fair to develop before long into a vast co-operative enterprise, embracing all the civil service employees of the National Capital, and serving them by cutting living expenses almost in half.

The details of the project are being worked out by the Home Club, and when plans have been fully formulated and the enterprise has been given a thorough test, other government departments will be urged to take a part in the money-saving scheme. To Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane belongs the credit for this fair vision of a brotherhood of civil service employees. It was he who originated the idea of a club composed of employees of the Interior Department, forseeing the mutual benefits that would arise from the facilities for closer association and better co-operation.

Hopes for Civil Service Club.

The Home Club sprang into existence to fill the gap which Secretary Lane desired so ardently to span and so phenomenal has been its growth and its success that he is hopefully working for the organization of a civil service club, composed of employees of all branches of the Federal Government in Washington.

As there are 35,289 Federal employees in the National Capital, it is safe to predict that the membership of such a club soon would amount to between 10,000 and 20,000. The club would be the largest in the world, and its activities would be proportionate. With dues of only \$1 a month the club would have an enormous sum constantly at its disposal to put into effect its elaborate plans. One of the first steps to be taken after organization is effected will be to request Congress to grant permission for the utilization of some local government reservation for the erection of a magnificent clubhouse. The structure necessarily would be one of the largest and finest in the world.

The possibilities of such a club are enormous. Secretary Lane believes the members could develop a plan of co-operative buying similar to the one now in operation at the Home Club that would enable civil service employees to cut living expenses from 30 to 50 per cent.

A magnificently equipped gymnasium,

FRANKLIN K. LANE, Secretary of the Interior, who helped bring about the establishment of the Home Club and who has a vision of a vast Civil Service club.



A large swimming pool and a spacious athletic field would be among the first things provided by the club. Later the organization would select a suitable camping ground for summer use and would establish a large game preserve.

Co-operative Stores a Possibility.
Before long the club would be in a position possibly to establish a chain of co-operative stores and co-operative lunchrooms for the use of its members. Food and clothing and household products would be purchased by the club and would be sold to members of the club at the actual cost of production plus the item of transportation. All profits would be eliminated.

These possibilities all smack of Utopia on initial inspection. But Secretary Lane is not a dreamer, and he believes that all these things not only are possibilities, but are inevitable probabilities. He does not base his views on fancy. He builds upon the actual achievements of the Home Club, which may be viewed as the proposed Civil Service Club in miniature.

The Home Club is attacking the high cost of living with a vengeance. It has organized a committee on co-operation and permanent housing. And fourteen important subcommittees have been formed to give consideration to fourteen distinct phases of co-operation. Perhaps you will say the whole thing smacks of socialism; perhaps you fancy that this

Plans Looking to Formation of an Organization, Membership of Which Probably Would Reach 20,000, Already Are Being Discussed.

work of the Interior Department employees extended to the entire civil service force would give the socialist propaganda an enormous impetus at the fountainhead of the government. It is immaterial. The members of the Home Club are not concerned what people call their plans. What they know is that these plans promise to cut down the high cost of living. Consequently they have respect for and faith in those plans, whether they be called socialist or otherwise.

One of the most important of the subcommittees is that on food supply. It is a vital work that this subcommittee has undertaken; for it affects the pocketbook, and with government employees, as with every one else, the pocketbook comes next to the heart. Lindsay G. Perkins, of the Pension Office, is chairman. The subcommittee is composed of nine members, one from each of the bureaus of the department.

Buying on Large Scale.

For some time this subcommittee, with the assistance of the management of the Home Club, has been buying food products on a large scale for distribution among members of the club. Butter and eggs have been the chief products dealt with, although a considerable amount of bacon, hams, oranges, grapefruit, and maple syrup also has been purchased. The butter and eggs have come principally from North Carolina.

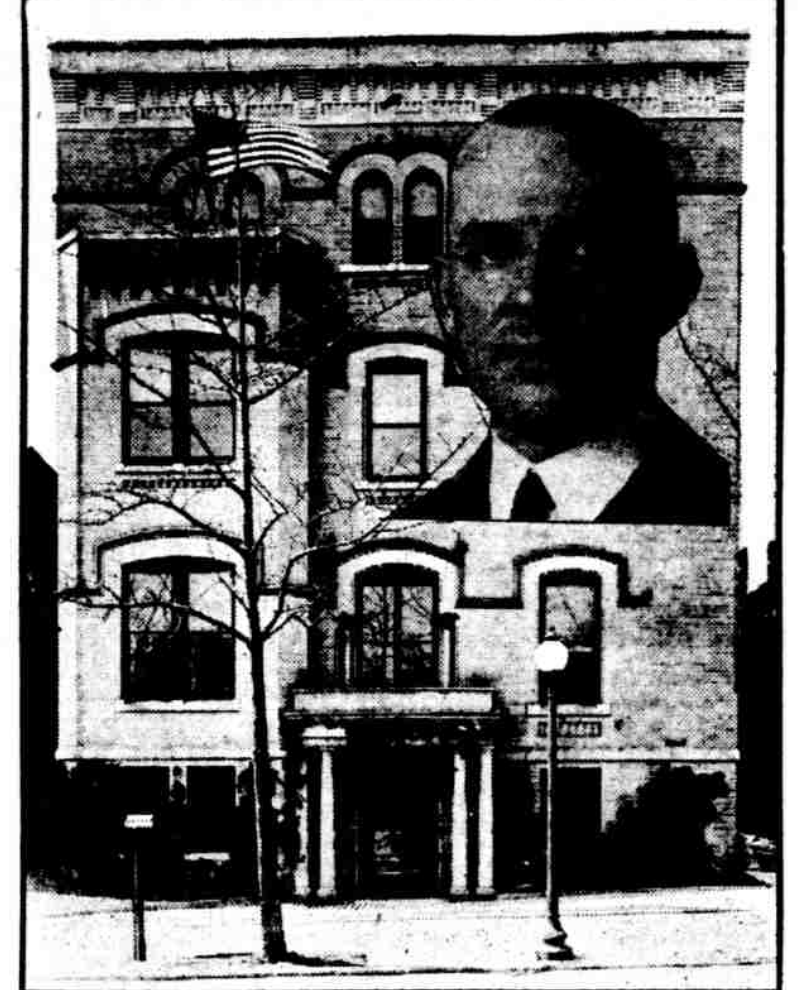
The Home Club has purchased a delivery wagon, and it has been found possible to deliver orders to the residences of members. During the winter months about 1,700 dozen of eggs and 1,800 pounds of butter were sold each week. Members of the club were saved about 12 cents a dozen on eggs and 12 cents on a pound of butter. The saving is not so marked during the summer months when prices are considerably lower.

The subcommittee has sent to each member of the club a long printed list of household necessities, with the request that the persons receiving them fill in the names of the brands desired and the quantities required for a month. These lists now are being returned to the subcommittee. When all have been received the results will be tabulated. The subcommittee then will know exactly the amount of products consumed by members each month. This information will form the basis for securing bids and estimates from packers and manufacturers.

Proposes to Let Bids.

Requests for estimates already have been sent out by the subcommittee to packers in all sections of the United States, from Delaware to Oregon. Replies have been received by the scores. The subcommittee now is in communi-

HOME CLUB, members of which are using the co-operative buying plan. Insert is G. K. Weston, business manager of the club, who is taking an active part in the project.



cation with packers and manufacturers who are in a position to furnish enough to feed all Washington and to feed the city much cheaper than it now is being fed. The club proposes letting bids just the same as a hotel or a railroad does, and the saving will be considerable.

Persons connected with many sources of food supply have been requested to furnish samples of non-perishable goods for use in a permanent exhibit to be established at the Home Club. This exhibit will show specimens of all the various articles of food. From time to time the club will hold housekeepers' banquets, the women members lending help in preparing the exhibited food for purposes of eating. Seated at the banquet table the members then will give the samples a practical test as to their food value.

"Our plans will not necessarily effect a revolution in economic conditions," said Mr. Perkins yesterday, "but they will pave the way for a very decided saving in cost to members in their households. The principal object will be to link the farm directly with the household. This will enable members of the club to purchase food products at wholesale rates plus the cost of delivery. When the other departments

formation concerning sites for suburban homes for members.

George W. Evans, of the Secretary's Office, is chairman of a subcommittee on sick benefit and life insurance. Several life insurance propositions now are under consideration.

A "factory to consumer" service is being established under the leadership of Walter E. Fry, of the Indian Office. E. J. Ayers, of the Secretary's Office, is head of a subcommittee planning for a mercantile store service. A co-operative lunch service may be evolved before long, due to the efforts of a subcommittee headed by H. Tomlin, of the Secretary's Office.

George S. Pope, of the Bureau of Mines, is chairman of the subcommittee looking about for a location for a permanent clubhouse. Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, of the Land Office, is at the head of the subcommittee on building, arrangement and design of the new clubhouse. The subcommittee on ways and means of financing is headed by Mrs. M. H. Worrell, of the Indian Office.

At the head of the general committee on co-operation and the plan of the Home Club is Walter I. Swanton, of the Reclamation Service, is secretary.

Movement Is Progressive.

"Co-operation is a progressive movement," said Mr. Swanton. "Farmers have many successful co-operative selling organizations. Why should the government employee with his comparatively small fixed salary, push this co-operative idea not only for a buying organization, but in other lines of activity as well. In a way with a population of 20,000 where one in ten is a government employee, and every other family has a member working for Uncle Sam, why should not co-operation in its biggest and broadest sense be made a success? Already there are co-operative plans in operation in several of the government bureaus, and the Home Club is conducting a successful buying organization which yields each month a considerable profit for the club and its members."

"The co-operative idea is promoting social amenities and is fostering genuine American democracy," declared Mr. Perkins, one of the most ardent advocates of the co-operative propaganda. "It is breaking down the lines of social demarcation, it is making brothers and sisters of the otherwise rather classish civil service employees. It is breaking down cliques, making employees better acquainted, increasing efficiency and decreasing the cost of living."

To Offset Small Salaries.

The co-operative buying scheme has been devised to serve as a palliative for the comparatively small salaries now being paid. The agitation for the payment of better salaries to Uncle Sam's employees is making headway. It is expected that the formulation of the Home Club philosophically have reached the conclusion that if it is impossible to secure increased pay the next best thing is the formulation of a plan to decrease living expenses.

"It is far from the desire of the food supply subcommittee," said Mr. Perkins, "to disturb the local market entirely. We realize that the problem of distribution is a serious one, and that the middleman is indispensable as a purveyor of food to the household. We are concerned only about supplying the members of our own club with certain leading lines of food articles. They will have to depend upon the local market for many of the necessities of life, even after our buying system is fully established."

"But there are certain articles which are often plentiful elsewhere, with the market even overstocked and the prices very low, while the prices in Washington may remain as usual. Then it will be desirable for our members to take advantage of the situation and have the cheap food supplies sent them through the co-operative system. For example, peaches, apples and other fruits are sometimes so plentiful and cheap in many States that they go to waste for want of a paying market, while our members continue to pay the local prices charged, which do not always fall to the outside level."

Can Order by Car Load.

"Last winter, potatoes could be had in New York for 10 cents a bushel, and this year they probably will be cheaper still. Home Club members can order such things by the car-load for distribution in small quantities best suited to the use of individual members and thus save money. Having been incorporated under the laws of Congress, the Home Club is a full-fledged corporation, and, in point of seeking supplies, is on the same footing as the railroads and big hotels which buy in large quantities for their own use. In time it is expected the club will ask bids from packers and other producers for supplies, and receive the same consideration as the big wholesale rates as any other corporation."

"If, instead of 1,800 members, we had every department represented and a membership of 10,000 to 20,000 it would broaden the buying power and give still greater advantages to every member. Even in that event, however, the local retailers would have a big army of consumers to feed, outside of our membership."

"It would be much easier to establish this co-operative buying system and secure direct delivery from producer to consumer from kitchen to kitchen, than to pack for pan, as one member expresses it, if the ladies didn't insist on seeing the cut they order before they pay for it. They are right, in the main, but it is hoped to build up such a system of direct delivery of perfectly reliable articles of food that the reigning goddess of the household herself will trust the packer or shipper to do the right thing; and we unto the purveyor who picks up inferior stuff! If the pig must be bought in a poke, that big must be the best in the pen. When Business Manager Weston perfects the delivery system, he has so admirably begun to believe the householders of the club will be glad to give him all the orders they can."

The gawkier of Baroda, whose son recently graduated from Harvard, has two solid gold guns and two silver ones. The gold guns weigh 400 pounds each. When the gawkier went to the Prince of Wales he took the gold guns with him to salute the English prince.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Coolert Theatre in Washington
Matinees (Daily) 25¢ Evenings 25, 50, 75¢
ALL THIS WEEK

Polis
POPULAR LAYERS

MILESTONES

NEXT WEEK
MIRACLE MAN

TODAY
MIRACLE MAN

3 to 10:30 P.M.
BELLEROS
LOTTERY IN THE DANCE
CHARLES CHAPLIN
MIRACLE MAN
MIRACLE MAN

All Seats 10¢
12 REELS

COUNTLESS MILKS COW FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

Titled Lady Offered Her Services Through "Personal" Column in London Times.

London, July 10.—One of the strange outcomes of the present war is the "Agony" or "Personal" column of the Times.

A host of new ads have crept into the columns of the "Thunderer" as the London Times is familiarly called. These include passionate demands for the whereabouts of missing officers, innumerable requests for the loan of automobiles, cycles, field glasses and, occasionally, a roll of bank notes without the smallest prospect of security or the least likelihood of return.

Perhaps the crowning ad of this new brigade of insertions was the request for the loan of "a cow in milk" to supply fresh milk to a convalescent hospital in France. The reply was instantaneous. A remarkably fine cow arrived well in the standard price for any animal selected from its stock. But the best of all was a money lender who offered a "special war rebate" on a loan to cover the cost of a first-class cow.

"Hands Up" in August.

The Messrs. Shubert announce that rehearsals of the elaborate musical production, "Hands Up," scheduled for early presentation at the Forty-fourth Street Theater, have begun again. Lew Fields will not be in the new version.

The role originally intended for Mr. Fields will be played by Harry Hertz, Maurice and Florence Walton still remain as the featured stars. Irene Franklin, aided by Bert Green, is a newcomer, who will also be seen in the cast.

Bobby North, Duffy and Lawrence, and Alfred Latell complete the list of principals.

"The Passing Show of 1915."

Tomorrow evening marks the beginning of the sixth week of "The Passing Show of 1915" at the Winter Garden, N. Y. The principal players include John Charles Thomas, Boyle and Brail, George Monroe, John T. Murray, Eugene and Willie Howard, Harry Fisher, Theodore Kosloff, Ernest Hare, Sam Hearn, Arthur Hill, Alexis Kosloff, Rodion Mendelivitch, Frances Demarest, Marilyn Miller, Dagmar Jolliffe, Mrs. Baldwin, Frances Pritchard, Juliette Lippe, Helen Eley and others.

Preparing Volume of Dialect.

Louis Mann, who is appearing in "The Bubble" at the Booth Theater, is, to his friends, as famous for his dialect stories as he is for his acting. Mr. Mann has made a study of the various American dialects and also is able to imitate the jargon of any hyphenated American. At present in his off hours he is preparing a volume which shall contain the best dialect stories he has accumulated in his many years of travel, both as an actor and a private individual.

AMUSEMENTS.

FREE BAND TODAY

SOLDIERS' HOME MILITARY Series of Special Concerts

3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. At Washington's Pleasure Place.

GLEN ECHO PARK

To Which Admission Is Free.

FREE OPEN AIR Moving Pictures

At 5:30 P. M. on the Minute.

OTHER FEATURES

B. F. KEITH'S

Daily 2:15 & 8:15. Sunday, 3:00 & 8:15.

"A Broadway Homecoming" Star. THE ONLY EMMA

CARUS

IN NEW SONGS AND DANCES As Given Last Week at Keith's

The N. Y. Winter Garden Cerebrity

Swan Wood

Pette Premiere Danseuse, with Florence Burns and Jessie Hooge, Principal Dancers, and Eight

Metropolitan Opera Ballet in "A Ballet Divertissement."

The Musical Comedy Stars, JOHN E. GRACE

HENSHAW & WARE

Harry Brown, Marie Paver, Belle Blanche, Ruth Allen

TO DAY

LADY SEN HET all last week's hits

Reserved Seat Tickets to POLI'S THEATER Given Tomorrow With All 50c Purchases of M and C TOILET ARTICLES

at **The Powder Box**
908 14th St.

We desire to popularize more widely M and C Toilet Articles, compounded by a woman who is an expert in this line, and as the management of Poli Theater co-operated with us—we offer this week

FREE MATINEE TICKETS WITH EVERY 50c PURCHASE OF M AND C TOILET ARTICLES.

Summer is the time when toilet articles are most needed for comfort, and M and C Preparations are daintily perfumed and are well liked by women who have used them. There is a preparation for every toilet need. Have our expert demonstrator explain their merits. Come Monday—buy for vacation needs and

Secure a FREE Poli Matinee Ticket for any day this week with every 50c purchase of M and C Preparations.

Poli Players are very popular with theatergoers. The play this week is "MILESTONES"—a play that holds one's interest from start to finish

HERE IS A LIST OF THE M AND C VARIETIES



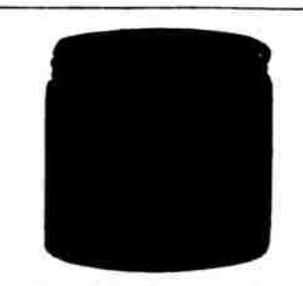
M and C Face Powder, in white, flesh, and pink. It stays on, and its faint fragrance makes it not only a powder, but a perfume as well.

25c and 50c



M and C Bath Powder is a great favorite with all the family. Perfumes and makes the bath an unalloyed pleasure. Price,

30c



M and C Cleansing Cream thoroughly cleanses the pores of all impurities and is quick in its results. Four sizes,

25c, 50c, \$1, \$2



If your hair is falling out, go to the root of the trouble, literally, and give it the nourishment it needs and which it will find in M and C Tar Ointment. Price

50¢



If there is dandruff or too much itching, apply M and C Tonic.

50¢



A drop of this exquisite extract will produce a delicate blush resembling the petals of a rose. Price,

35¢



This Brilliantine if brushed into the hair will produce a glossy effect and remove any tendency to lack of lustre to the hair. Price...

35¢



This M and C Massage Cream is a pure food for the skin, as rubbed in the pores daily it proves a splendid nourishment. Price...

50¢

THE POWDER BOX, 908 14th Street N.W.